CHAPTER 7: CINDERELLA

ORIGINAL WORK: KIMINO SAKURAKO

MANGA ADAPTATION: TAKUMI NAMIUCHI

K-Kaname!!
Why are you...
OH, MY PRINCE, THAT'S BECAUSE OF OUR PSYCHIC BOND
I ALWAYS KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, MY LOVE
WELL, I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT,
BUT THE TRUTH IS, THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT ASKED ME TO COME HERE DURING LUNCH

THE STUDENT COUNCIL FELT THAT SHE WAS THE BEST CHOICE...
BUT, YOU NEVER SPECIFIED WHAT PARTNER YOU WANTED, AMANE-SAMA.
THAT IS EXACTLY WHY I DON'T WANT TO ENTER THE ETOILE SELECTION WITH HER!
I'M WITHDRAWING! I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO DO THIS!! THERE'S NO WAY I'M ENTERING THE ETOILE SELECTION IF KANAME'S MY PARTNER!!
HOW COULD SHE POSSIBLY BE THE BEST CHOICE!?
WE'D LOOK LIKE A PAIR OF MALE IMPERSONATORS!
YES, THAT'S EXACTLY IT
NO ONE WANTS TO SEE THEIR OBJECT OF ADMIRATION PRINCE AMANE, FALL INTO THE HANDS OF ANOTHER GIRL.
WE CANNOT POSSIBLY IGNORE THE WISHES OF THE ENTIRE SCHOOL.
AND NOWADAYS, TWO MALE IMPERSONATORS TOGETHER IS A POPULAR COMBINATION

LET US BECOME A RARE BINARY STAR ETOILE COUPLE SO THAT OUR SCHOOL'S NAME WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY
WHY DO YOU WAVER?
THIS IS SURELY FATE, MY PRINCE AMANE
note
Spica is a binary star
ALONG WITH KANAME...?
I'LL BECOME AN ETOILE AS A STAR FROM SPICA
WHOOSH
No!! There's no way!!
No!!

IT ISN'T... THAT I DISLIKE YOU, KANAME
ARE YOU REALLY SO AVERSE TO ENTERING WITH ME...?
Amane-sama...
...BUT, I JUST REALIZED SOMETHING
I'LL CHOOSE A PARTNER

WELL, ACTUALLY, WE HAVEN'T PROMISED ANYTHING YET... I JUST WANT HER TO BE MY PARTNER...
THAT I ALREADY HAVE A PARTNER!
!?
WHAT... DID YOU JUST SAY?
AND SOMEONE YOU MIGHT HAVE A ONE-SIDED CRUSH ON...!?
WHAAAAT!? YOUR PARTNER, AMANE-SAMA!?
RATTLE
And her name? Who could it possibly be...?

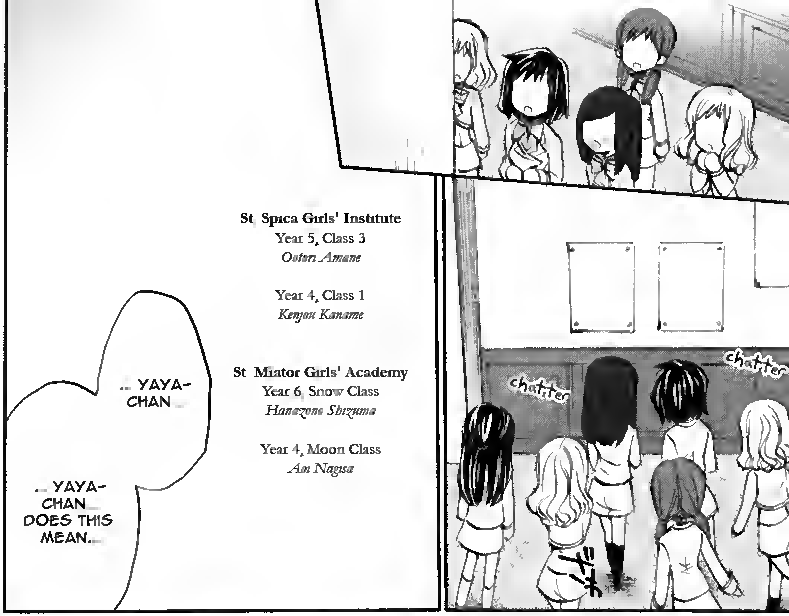
...HIKARI
Blush
HIKARI...?
KONOHANA HIKARI
I'M PRETTY SURE SHE SAID SHE WAS IN CLASS 3-1

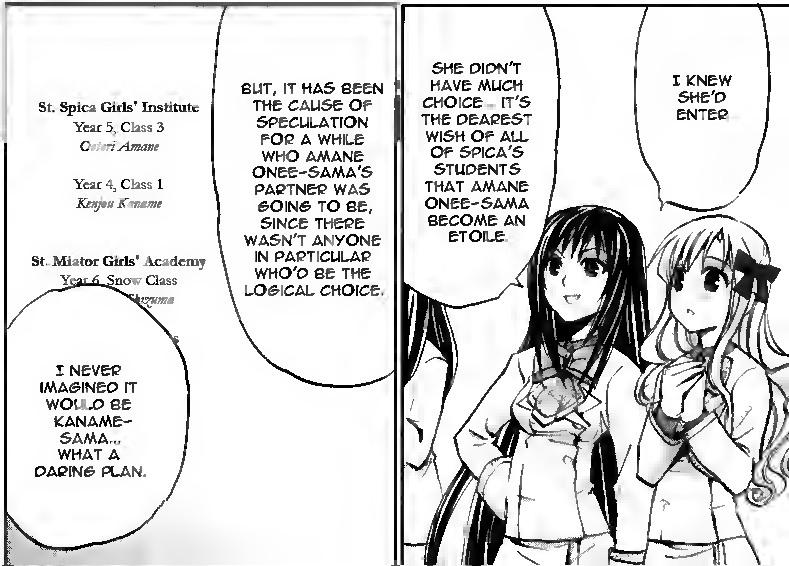
LOCKER ROOM
STARTLE
HEY... HIKARI-CHAN.
ONE
MORE
POKE
Eek!?
ONE OF THE HOOKS ON YOUR BRA IS UNDONE.

I'LL FASTEN IT FOR YOU.
OH, DON'T WORRY.
Huh!? R-really!?
OH!
FALL
!!
Ya- Yaya- chan!
HEHEHE! SORRY, I MESSED UP...

THAT'S A CUTE BRA, HIKARI-CHAN!
DOES IT... MATCH THE UNDERWEAR I CHECKED IN THE LIBRARY BEFORE?
I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT YOU HAVE TO WEAR REALLY GOOD UNDERWEAR EVERY DAY, DION'T I?
HUUUH!?
YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN YOU'LL END UP RUNNING INTO AMANE ONEE-SAMA AGAIN.
CAN I CHECK THEM?
HUH!?
OH... THEY'RE CUTE. ♡
flip

St-...stop! You shouldn't do things like that, Yaya-chan!!
YOU HAVE TONS OF CUTE UNDERWEAR, DON'T YOU, HIKARI-CHAN?
BUT, THEY MIGHT BE A LITTLE ON THE CHILDISH SIDE.
Argh! Are you listening!?
I'LL SHOW YOU SOME SEXIER UNDERWEAR.
SO THAT YOU'LL BE PREPARED TO MEET AMANE ONEE-SAMA ANYTIME ♡
Big news! Big news!!
Hey!! Everyone, come look!!


St. Spica Girls' Institute
Year 5, Class 3
Otori Amane
Year 4, Class 1
Kenjou Kaname
St. Miator Girls' Academy
Year 6, Snow Class
Hanazono Shizuma
Year 4, Moon Class
Ao Nagisa
... YAYA-CHAN...
...YAYA-CHAN... DOES THIS MEAN...
chatter
chatter


St. Spica Girls' Institute
Year 5, Class 3
Otori Amane
Year 4, Class 1
Kenjou Kaname
St. Miator Girls' Academy
Year 6, Snow Class
I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD BE KANAME-SAMA... WHAT A DARING PLAN.
BUT, IT HAS BEEN THE CAUSE OF SPECULATION FOR A WHILE WHO AMANE ONEE-SAMA'S PARTNER WAS GOING TO BE, SINCE THERE WASN'T ANYONE IN PARTICULAR WHO'D BE THE LOGICAL CHOICE.
SHE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE... IT'S THE DEAREST WISH OF ALL OF SPICA'S STUDENTS THAT AMANE ONEE-SAMA BECOME AN ETOILE.
I KNEW SHE'D ENTER

I'M SURE AMANE ONEE-SAMA WILL BE REALLY HAPPY TO SEE YOU THERE, SINCE YOU'RE HER FAVORITE!
HEY, HIKARI-CHAN, LET'S GO CHEER FOR THEM ON THE DAY OF THE FINAL SELECTION!
HIKARI-CHAN?
...YEAH.
!
Hikari Onee-sama!!
THUD
THUD
Oh! So this is where you were!!
OH, TSUBOMI IF YOU RUN LIKE THAT, YOU'LL GET SCOLDED BY A SISTER AGAIN.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'RE IN A HURRY.
It-... it's amazing!

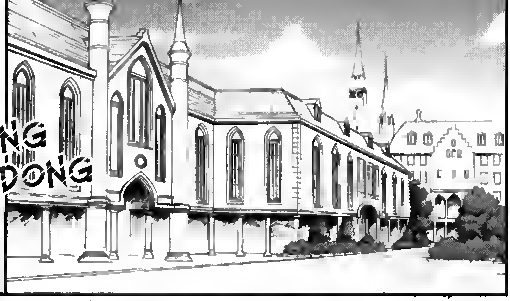
HM?
Hi- Hi- Hikari Onee-sama Is it true!?
Are you really
going to enter the Etoile selection with Amane Onee-sama!?
!
HUH?
HUH!?

St. Spica Girls' Institute
Year 5, Class 3
Outori Amane

Year 4, Class 1
Kenjou Kaname

St. Miator Girls' Academy
Year 6, Snow Class
Hanazono Shizuma

Year 4, Moon Class
An Nagisa



drip
BUT, I HAVE FUN WHEN I'M WITH YOU, NAGISA-CHAN. IT ISN'T BORING
YOU GOT STUCK DOING THIS BECAUSE OF NAGISA.
SORRY, TAMAO-CHAN.
pant
pant

I DON'T THINK SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ME IF I'D NEVER MET YOU, NAGISA-CHAN.
THAT WE'D END UP DOING ALL THE CLEANING TOGETHER BECAUSE THE CLASS WAS UPSET WITH YOU OVER THE ETOILE SELECTION...

HUG
MAKING AN INNOCENT GIRL LIKE YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE ETOILE SELECTION, A COMPETITION FULL OF PLOTTING AND INTRIGUE...
BUT, WHAT IN THE WORLD DOES SHIZUMA ONEE-SAMA THINK SHE'S DOING?

IT'S TO TEST WHETHER THE ENTRANTS HAVE THE REQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE TO REPRESENT THE THREE SCHOOLS
YOU KNOW, THE FIRST ROUND IS USUALLY A QUIZ ON ASTRAEA

SO, I DON'T THINK SHIZUMA ONEE-SAMA IS SERIOUS ABOUT WINNING THE ETOILE SELECTION.
IT'S 100% IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO PASS THAT ROUND, SINCE YOU'RE A TRANSFER STUDENT...
MOST OF THE GIRLS WHO ENTER HAVE BEEN ATTENDING ASTRAEA SINCE KINDERGARTEN...
AND ABOUT HALF OF THEM FAIL THAT ROUND.
O-... OH...

OH! SO, SHE ISN'T SERIOUS ABOUT IT!
LIKE, "THIS IS MY CUTE LITTLE NAGISA-CHAN..." THAT SORT OF THING...
YES... I THINK SHE JUST WANTS TO SHOW YOU OFF TO EVERYONE.

HONESTLY...! NAGISA WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN WHAT TO DO IF MIATOR COULD HAVE LOST BECAUSE OF HER, OR IF SHE COULD HAVE CAUSED PROBLEMS FOR SHIZUMA ONEE-SAMA!!
OH, ! THAT'S SUCH A RELIEF..! THANK GOODNESS!!

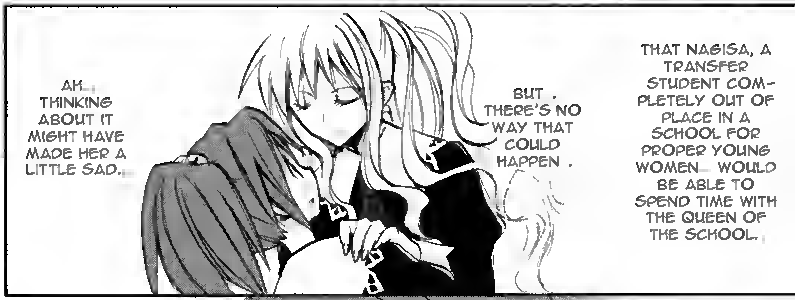
YEAH... OF COURSE NAGISA COULDN'T... BECOME PART OF THE SCHOOL'S MODEL COUPLE..
NAGISA SHOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED ABOUT IT..

Ahaha
NAGISA DOESN'T MIND JUST EMBARRASSING HERSELF... BUT, SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BOTHER ANYONE ELSE...

SO... SHE ISN'T... SERIOUS, HUH...?

THERE WAS... THE TINIEST BIT OF EXCITE-MENT...
BECAUSE SHE'D BE ABLE TO SEE SHIZUMA ONEE-SAMA AGAIN...

BUT,...DEEP, DEEP WITHIN HER HEART...
NAGISA WAS SCARED... THAT EVERYONE WOULD CONDEMN HER FOR IT... HER HEART WAS POUNDING... AND SHE'D BROKEN OUT IN A COLD SWEAT...


AH... THINKING ABOUT IT MIGHT HAVE MADE HER A LITTLE SAD...
BUT . THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD HAPPEN .
THAT NAGISA, A TRANSFER STUDENT COM-PLETELY OUT OF PLACE IN A SCHOOL FOR PROPER YOUNG WOMEN... WOULD BE ABLE TO SPEND TIME WITH THE QUEEN OF THE SCHOOL.

AHAHA... OH, DEAR... WHY IS IT...
THAT SHE'S SUDDENLY SNIFFLING...?
WHY IS IT?

IT'S TERRIBLE!
Watch out, Nagi-Onee-sama!!
Please, make a run for it!!
click
The upper-classmen are....!!
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON, CHIYO-CHAN!?
They're terribly angry...
chatter
chatter
chatter
FRET
FRET
FRET
Oh...! Oh, what should we do...?
WHAT? WHAT'S THE MATTER!?
HAS SOME-THING HAPPENED OUTSIDE?

How dare she enter the Etoile selection with Shizuma-sama!?
Where is Aoi Nagisa!?
rustle
rustle
Shizuma-sama is OURS !!
We'll have her guts for garters...!!
Ah...
Run for it, Nagisa Onee-sama...

NO WAY
GO PALE

SSSSHHHH
LAST YEAR, YOU AND MIZUHO HERE MADE SUCH A MAGNIFICENT ETOILE COUPLE TOGETHER. WE WERE ALL SO HAPPY. BUT NOW, YOU'RE.
SHIZUMA-SAMA... WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU DO THAT?
ENTERING THE ETOILE SELEC TION WITH... A GIRL WHO ONLY JUST TRANSFERRED INTO MIATOR

I KNOW HOW HARD YOU HAD TO WORK FOR THAT!
AND NOW SHE'S PLANNING TO ENTER WITH SOME UNKNOWN TRANSFER STUDENT...!!
YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR, HITOMI...
BUT...!!
YOU WORKED SO HARD TO WIN THE ETOILE SELECTION, MIZUHO!!
I KNOW IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO SAD FOR YOU, SERVING AS THE REPLACEMENT FOR POOR KAORI..
Hitomi!!
I HAD TO SAY IT NOBODY ELSE WOULD!
BECAUSE... IT'S JUST TOO MUCH, SHIZUMA-SAMA...!
IT'S JUST TOO MUCH...

...SO, THAT WAS WHY YOU CALLED ME HERE. I THOUGHT AS MUCH.
UP UNTIL NOW, I'D JUST TRIED NOT TO THINK ABOUT HER
ANYTIME I REMEMBERED HER, MY CHEST WOULD ACHE.
BUT IT MIGHT BE TIME TO FACE MY MEMORIES NOW.
YES THAT'S RIGHT
THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DO THAT

I BET BY NOW, SHE'S COVERED WITH A MOUND OF THOSE LAVENDER FLOWERS SHE USED TO LIKE SO MUCH.
SAKURAGI KAORI?
What is Shizuma the previous Estelle's secret now?
CONTINUED IN THE JUNE ISSUE

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ストロベリー・パニック!
Strawberry Panic!
GIRLS' SCHOOL IN FULL BLOOM
CHAPTER 3: MEMORY OF FLOWERS
ORIGINAL WORK: KIMINO SAKURAKO
MANGA ADAPTATION: TAKUMI NAMIUCHI

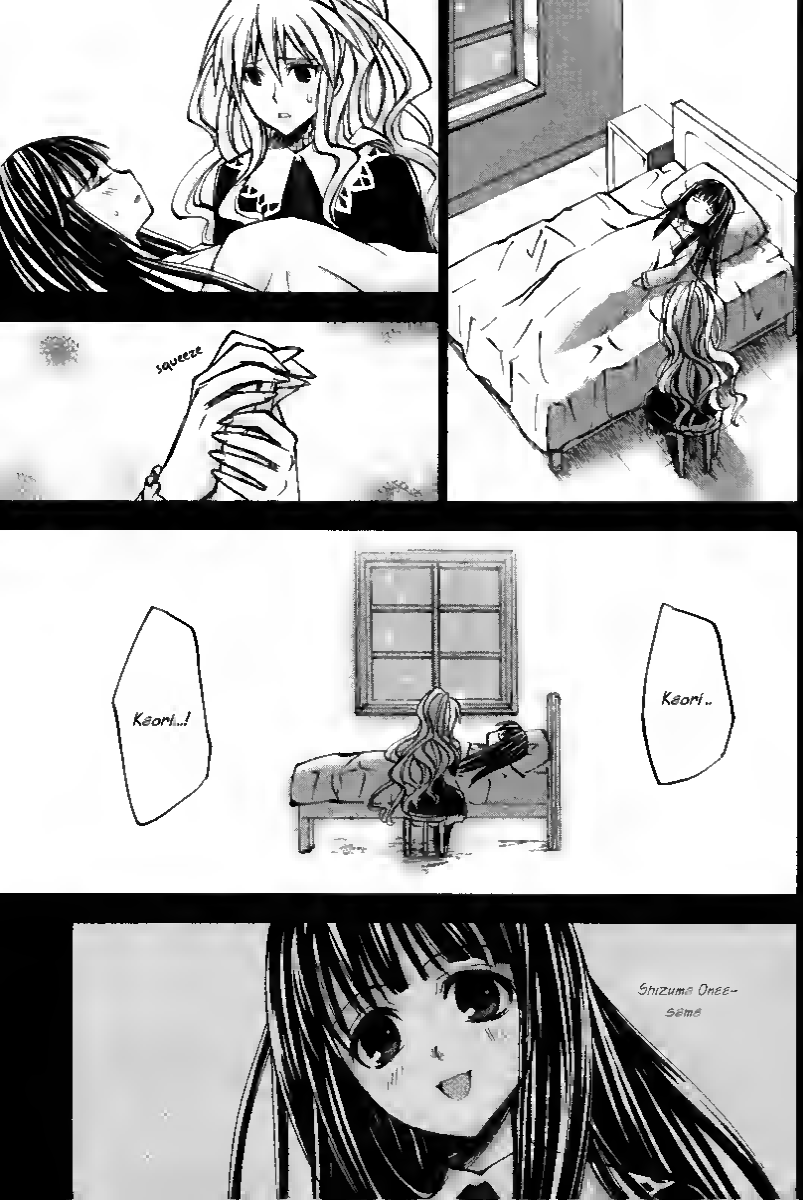
SHIZUMA-SAMA
HOW ABOUT HER?
ISN'T SHE CUTE?
SINCE YOU'RE PREPARING FOR THE ETOILE SELECTION RIGHT NOW, ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO CHOOSE A PARTNER?
I'M SURE THIS GIRL WOULD BE PERFECT FOR YOU, SHIZUMA-SAMA!

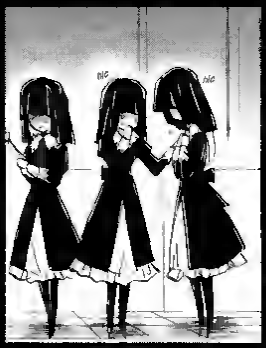
NOW, KAORI-CHAN, DON'T BE SO STIFF.
...IT'S FINE WITH ME IF SHE DOESN'T WISH TO SPEAK WITH ME.
HUH!? OH! SHIZUMA-SAMA...!!
!!
Pl... please don't go, Shizuma... Onee-sama!!
GRAB

I've... I've admired you for so long
Y... you...
Ever since elementary school, I've...
Please let me be by your side...
Shizuma Onee-sama...
..what
A clumsy person you are...

ORI
KAORI
COME OVER HERE, KAORI
EHEHE! I'VE GOT YOU NOW!

I LOVE YOU... KAORI.
MY CUTE LITTLE SISTER...
SHIZUMA ONEE-SAMA...
SSSchhhh
...IS THAT... TRUE?
IT CAN'T BE CURED...?


squeeze
Keori...!
Keori..
Shizuma Onee-sama


sic
sic

In the Ichigosha courtyard, the night before the Etoile Selection.

THE SCALE OF THINGS REALLY IS DIFFERENT AT A SCHOOL FOR PROPER YOUNG WOMEN
HOLDING SOMETHING LIKE THIS IN THE COURT-YARD AT NIGHT...

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SITTING ALL ALONE IN A CORNER OF THE COURTYARD...
OH, TAMAO-CHAN IS GETTING US DRINKS RIGHT NOW.
Shi... Shizuma Onee-sama!!
MAY I... SIT NEXT TO YOU?

HERE.
DON'T WORRY. IT ISN'T ALCOHOLIC.
hehe
Y... Yes!
* (dokc heart beating sound ;-)
IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR NAGISA TO THINK THAT SHIZUMA ONEE-SAMA LIKES HER A BIT ?
doki
doki
SHE WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF BRINGING NAGISA A GLASS
tip
...UM...
MAYBE NAGISA SHOULD JUST TAKE THE PLUNGE... AND ASK HER...

WHY... DID YOU DECIDE TO ENTER THE ETOILE SELECTION WITH NAGISA, SHIZUMA ONEE-SAMA?
...ARE YOU AVERSE TO THE IDEA, NAGISA-CHAN?
...OF ENTERING THE ETOILE SELECTION WITH ME...
UM... I WOULD JUST HOLD YOU BACK...
AND THE UPPERCLASS-MEN TOLD NAGISA THAT IT WOULD BE PRE-SUMPTUOUS FOR A RECENT TRANSFER STUDENT LIKE HER TO ENTER...
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T THINK THAT IT WOULD HAVE SUCH MAJOR REPERCUS-SIONS.
I ONLY DID IT ON A WHIM...

AHAHA... OF COURSE YOU WOULDN'T... SERIOUSLY WANT SOMEONE LIKE NAGISA... AS YOUR... PARTNER...
OF COURSE IT WAS ONLY ON A WHIM...
A WHIM... OH, OF COURSE.
ALTHOUGH IT MAY HAVE BEGUN THAT WAY...
THAT'S RIGHT IT WAS ONLY A WHIM.
I'M SERIOUS ABOUT IT NOW, NAGISA.

AFTER I ANNOUNCED IT, PEOPLE SAID MANY THINGS TO ME AS WELL.
THAT IT WAS SELFISH OF ME TO WANT TO WIN THE ETOILE SELECTION AFTER HAVING DONE SO ONCE ALREADY.
THAT IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO WIN WITH A NEW TRANSFER STUDENT AS MY PARTNER...
BUT OF COURSE, NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE ELSE SAYS, I AM MYSELF. I DO AS I PLEASE.
I GET WHAT I WANT, AND I DO AS I PLEASE. THAT IS THE WAY I LIVE MY LIFE. I HAVE NO REGRETS.
...HOWEVER...
I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE YOU ANY TROUBLE, NAGISA-CHAN.
I... DON'T WANT YOU TO HATE ME...
Oh, no!
I could never hate you, Shizuma Onee-sama...!!

HAS TALKING ABOUT THIS CLEARED UP SOME OF YOUR SPECULA-TIONS?
PLEASE, TELL ME THE TRUTH.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ENTER THE ETOILE SELECTION WITH ME, I'LL WITHDRAW...
OH, NO! IF IT'S SOMETHING YOU WANT, SHIZUMA ONEE-SAMA .. NAGISA WILL DO WHATEVER SHE CAN TO HELP YOU!
THE TRUTH IS, NAGISA IS REALLY HAPPY! SHE'LL BE ABLE TO BE BY YOUR SIDE..
BECAUSE ...
BECAUSE NAGISA LIKES YOU SO MUCH, SHIZUMA ONEE-SAMA..!
clasp
GASP
ACK! I ... I SAID IT!
THAT SOUNDED ALMOST LIKE A LOVE CONFES-SION!

HEHE... WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I DID THIS JUST FOR A FEW MINUTES?
slide
HUH?
YOU'RE SUCH A KIND GIRL...
THANK YOU...
PLEASE LET ME STAY LIKE THIS...
FOR A FEW MINUTES...
Shu... Shuzuma Onee-sama!

doki
doki
I WONDER WHY IT IS. THAT I CAN BE A DIFFERENT PERSON ONLY WHEN I'M WITH YOU.
I MYSELF WASN'T AWARE OF IT.
BUT I THINK THIS MIGHT BE MY REAL SELF...
SHIZUMA.
ONEE-SAMA

WELL THEN, TO SPICA'S SUCCESS IN THE ETOILE SELECTION...
CHEERS!
CHEEEERS!
MAY AMANE BE CROWNED ETOILE! CHEEEERS!
...
yay!
yay!
. MAY I BE EXCUSED?
I REALLY DON'T LIKE THESE KINDS OF THINGS.
I UNDER-STAND YOUR FEELINGS, PRINCE AMANE...
BUT THIS IS A SPECIAL OCCASION... THE CELEBRA-TION ON THE EVE OF THE ETOILE SELECTION. PLEASE STAY A BIT LONGER.

EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE IN HIGH SPIRITS, BUT I'M NOT SO SURE WE'LL ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO WIN.
AMANE-SAMA'S PARTNER... WELL, I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHO SHE IS, BUT SHE'S JUST SOME REGULAR THIRD-YEAR STUDENT, SO...
HMPH. YOU REALLY THINK THE ETOILE SELECTION WILL GO WELL FOR US?
BUT, THAT IS PRINCE AMANE'S EXPRESS WISH.
AND, WHOEVER HER PARTNER MAY BE, PRINCE AMANE IS SURE TO WIN THE ETOILE SELECTION FOR SPICA!
THAT'S RIGHT YOU SHOULD CALM DOWN A LITTLE, KANAME.
Be quiet!
Do you... do you really think I can allow this!?
My prince... has passed me over for some transfer student we know nothing about...

I.. I never meant for..
Hikari!
HUH!? OH... SO YOU'RE...
...!...
SOB SOB
DASH
!!
Wait!
Wait, Hikari!!

I'm sorry, Hikari...
pant
pant
Wait ! I'm sorry

...

I never meant to hurt you, Hikari..

...WOULD YOU LOOK THIS WAY, HIKARI...?

IT'S... ALL MY FAULT...
SORRY . I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE PUTTING YOU THROUGH ANYTHING LIKE THIS.

I'M TRULY SORRY.
...I JUST COULDN'T IMAGINE ENTERING THE ETOILE SELECTION WITH ANYONE BUT YOU.
sniffle

Amane-same looks.. She looks so..
Amane-same...

...Someone like me shouldn't make her look like that...

IT'S... ALL RIGHT.
THIS IS JUST BECAUSE OF MY OWN WEAKNESS... I'M SORRY.
BUT, AFTER THE KIND THINGS YOU JUST SAID... I'M GOING TO DO MY VERY BEST.
THAT IS, IF I'M GOOD ENOUGH TO BE OF USE TO YOU, AMANE-SAMA...
HUG
Hikari!

I'll never let go of you...!
Never ever!
A...Amane-sama!
HIKARI,
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS. I'LL PROTECT YOU,
She won't let go of her ever again the bond between the two of them has solidified
CONTINUED IN THE JULY ISSUE

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CHAPTER 9: THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ETOILES
ORIGINAL WORK: KIMINO SAKURAKO
MANGA ADAPTATION: TAKUMI NAMUCHI

CHIKARU ONEE-SAMA~~~!
DON'T YOU THINK THIS COSTUME... IS A LITTLE WEIRD?
You shouldn't say things like that!!
K-kizuna-chan!
WHAAAT? BUT
OH, THAT'S NOT TRUE ♡

THE DRESS-UP CLUB IS ALWAYS THE CENTER OF ATTENTION AT THE MIDNIGHT PARTIES.
WE'RE THE FLOWERS THAT SHINE IN THE NIGHT. ♡
OOOOOOH!!
THEIR COSTUMES... ARE REALLY CUTE TONIGHT. AS USUAAAAL!

AHHH!
THE KEY POINT THIS TIME IS KIZUNA-CHAN'S BACK!
SHE'S BOLDLY SHOWING HER BARE BACK!
GLINT
EHEHE! AREN'T THEY?
THE GIRLS FROM THE OTHER SCHOOLS ARE ALL EXCITED ABOUT THIS CELEBRATION ON THE EVE OF THE ETOILE SELECTION TOO, SO..
UMMM--- IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR US TO BE DOING THIS?
OHHH!?
HMM AMANE-CHAN IS ENTERING THE ETOILE SELEC-TION THIS YEAR I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING IT

OH! KIZUNA HAS A GOOD IDEA!
YOU SHOULD ENTER THE ETOILE SELECTION WITH PRINCE AMANE-SAMA, CHIKARU ONEE-SAMA!
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE PRINCE AGAIN, CHIKARU ONEE-SAMA--!
KIZUNA KNEW IT! YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH HER TOO!
WHA---T? SHE CA---N'T!?
hehe hehe
Hey... What a terrible thing to say, Kizuna-chan. And just out of the blue like that too!!
NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT.
A PRINCE WOULDN'T SUIT ME... A PRINCESS WOULD...
PERHAPS THE PEOPLE WHO SUIT ME BEST ARE SWEET LITTLE SISTERS LIKE YOU TWO...

THAT WHEN THE ETOILE SELECTION HEATS UP EVEN MORE AND THE BATTLE BETWEEN SPICA AND MIATOR BECOMES MORE FIERCE
LE 'LIM WILL BE IN A POSITION TO CAPITALIZE ON THAT CHAOS
WHEN I LOOK AT THESE GIRLS... I CAN'T HELP THINKING
AND THAT THEREFORE, PERHAPS THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT OUR OWN ST. LE 'LIM GIRLS' SCHOOL WILL WIN THE ETOILE SELECTION?

AFTER ALL, WE HAVE SUCH CUTE GIRLS HERE.
IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GOT OUR CHANCE AT THE SPOTLIGHT.
WE'RE NOT LAGGING BEHIND ANIATOR OR SPICA AT ALL IN THAT AREA.
TO WANT TO JOIN IN THE GAME WHEN I THINK WE HAVE EVEN THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE OF WINNING
EHE... IT'S A BAD HABIT OF MINE.
AFTER ALL, THE HIGHER THE ODDS, THE MORE INTERESTING IT IS TO GAMBLE.
EHEHEHE!

OHH! LOOKS LIKE KAGOME-CHAN'S FALLING ASLEEP!
OH MY , SHE'S SO CUTE WHEN SHE'S SLEEPING.
IS IT OUR LITTLE PRINCESS'S BEDTIME?
YOU CAN'T SLEEP HERE!
KAGOME-CHA--N! WAKE UUUUUP!

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S IN DANGER OF GETTING KIDNAPPED BY THE BEARS LIVING IN THE FOREST, HM?
ZZZZZ

sssshhhh
sigh
TAKING A BATH IN THE MORNING IS ALSO NICE~~!

AND NOBODY ELSE WILL BE COMING TO USE THE BATHS THIS TIME OF DAY THEY'RE ALL OURS! ♡
HEY, NAGISA~ CHAN!
...NAGISA~ CHAN?
DISTRACTED

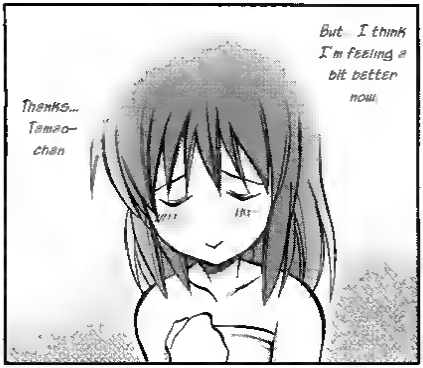
What should I do..?
The Etoile Selection is today..
Ah..! My legs are trembling.
I'm entering the Etoile Selection with Shizuma Onee-sama...
I was having so much fun with Shizuma Onee-sama last night that I didn't have time to think about it.
touch
ARE YOU NERVOUS, NAGISA-CHAN?

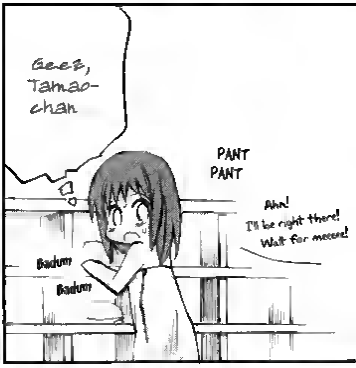
THAT'S RIGHT... THE CADETTES ARE COMPETING TODAY...
BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL DO FINE, NAGISA-CHAN. I'LL BE CHEERING YOU ON
...I DON'T WANT TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE BEING PAIRED WITH SHIZUMA ONEE-SAMA, BUT...
TAMAO-CHAN...
...I AM A STUDENT AT MIATOR,
SO I WANT YOU TO DO YOUR BEST FOR ALL OF US...

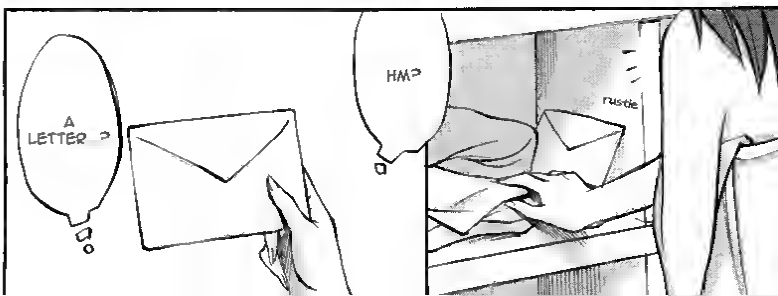
I HAVE TO... DO MY BEST, RIGHT? EHEHE...
..YOU'RE RIGHT..
EEK!?
KISS
WH WHAT'S WRONG?
?
EHE... EHEHE HEHE...
EHE...
SHOULD I DO SOMETHING... TO HELP KEEP YOU FROM BEING NERVOUS..?
HEY, NAGISA-CHAN..
PANT PANT

DASH
NAGISA'S GETTING OUT NOW!!
Oh! Nagisa-chan!!

WH. WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND.?
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS

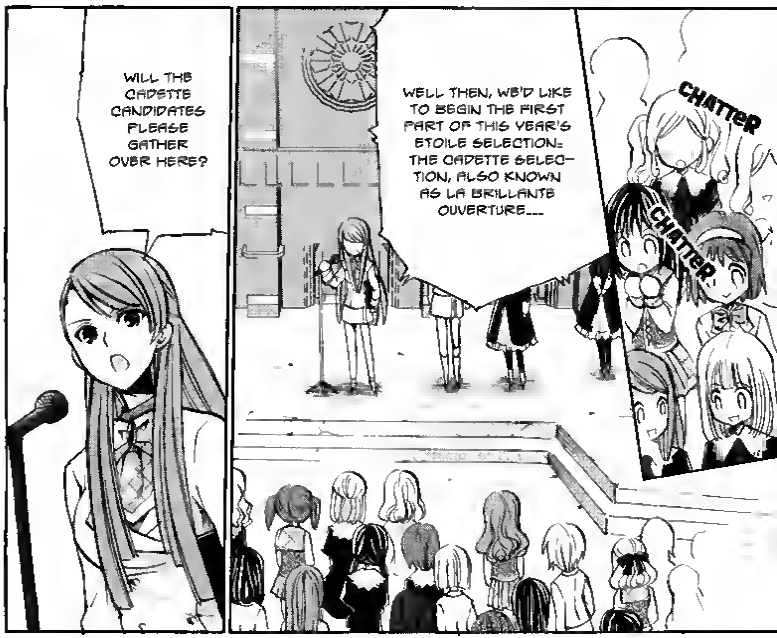

But... I think I'm feeling a bit better now.
Thanks... Tamao-chan

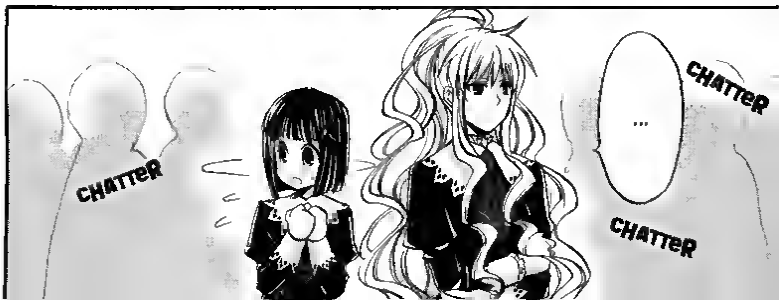

Geez, Tamao-chan
PANT PANT
Ahh! I'll be right there! Wait for meeee!
Badum Badum


A LETTER..?
HM?
rustle

Aoi Nagisa-sama,
There is something I would like to show you before the Etoile Selection.
I humbly ask that you be certain to come and view it before the Cadette Selection today... I shall be awaiting you at the library.
You shall then learn the truth about Shizuma-sama.
HUH !?
WHAT'S THIS ?

DING
DONG


WILL THE CADETTE CANDIDATES PLEASE GATHER OVER HERE?
WELL THEN, WE'D LIKE TO BEGIN THE FIRST PART OF THIS YEAR'S ETOILE SELECTION: THE CADETTE SELECTION, ALSO KNOWN AS LA BRILLANTE OUVERTURE...
CHATTER
CHATTER


CHATTER
...
CHATTER
CHATTER

I STILL DON'T SEE NAGISA ANYWHERE WHAT IN THE WORLD COULD SHE BE UP TO. ?
Could she have gotten lost..? Oh, I'm so worried!
IT'S A POSSIBILITY NAGISA IS A BIT CLUMSY LIKE THAT I SHOULD HAVE GONE TO GET HER...
AH... WAS IT A MISTAKE TO ENTER THE ETOILE SELECTION WITH HER?
. WELL... I WAS SURPRISED WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE GOING TO ENTER THE ETOILE SELECTION AGAIN, SHIZUMA ONEE-SAMA..
I... SAW A PICTURE OF YOUR ETOILE CORONATION IN THE LIBRARY...
YOU LOOKED SO HEAVENLY... SO BEAUTIFUL... YOU LOOKED SO WONDERFUL, IT ALMOST BROUGHT TEARS TO MY EYES...

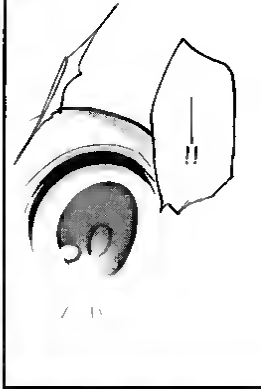
YOU SAID THAT DOING THAT ONCE IN YOUR LIFE WOULD BE ENOUGH...
SO WHY ARE YOU...
I'm terribly sorry!
I know that your decision to enter again must be a reflection of how much you care for Nagisa Onee-sama!
GASP
Oh!
Oh, no! Srm...
Wh-what am I saying...!?
...
IT'S ALL RIGHT DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

CREAAAK
si-...lence
OH...?
IT SEEMS SO EMPTY IN HERE TODAY.
CLICK
CLICK
STARTLE
EVERYONE IS OFF WATCHING THE CADETTE SELECTION TODAY.

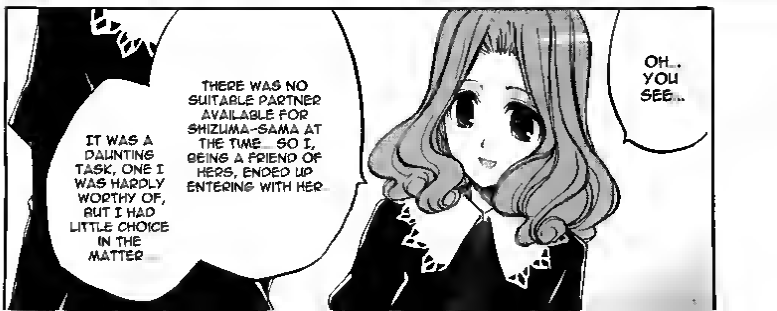
PLEASE TELL ME IF I CAN ASSIST YOU IN ANY WAY.
GOOD AFTER-NOON.
OH... UM.
HAS ANYONE ...
...COME HERE LOOKING FOR ME? AOI NAGISA OF YEAR 4, MOON CLASS?
HUH...!? AOI NAGISA...!?
THEN YOU'RE...
?

IS THIS WHAT SHE MEANT WHEN SHE WROTE THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING SHE WANTED TO SHOW NAGISA ?
OH! THIS IS !
Ani Nagisa-sama
..So this girl is Shizuma-sama's..
PHP PHP
UM.. THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO SEE BEFORE I GO TO THE CADETTE SELECTION
ISN'T THE CADETTE SELECTION STARTING..?
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

This picture... Shizuma Chee-sama...!!


!!

"The new Etoile Aînée, Hanazono Shizuma-san of St. Miator Girls' Academy, Year Five, Snow Class, and...
"...the new Etoile Cadette, also from Year Five, Snow Class, Kanou Mizuho-san"...

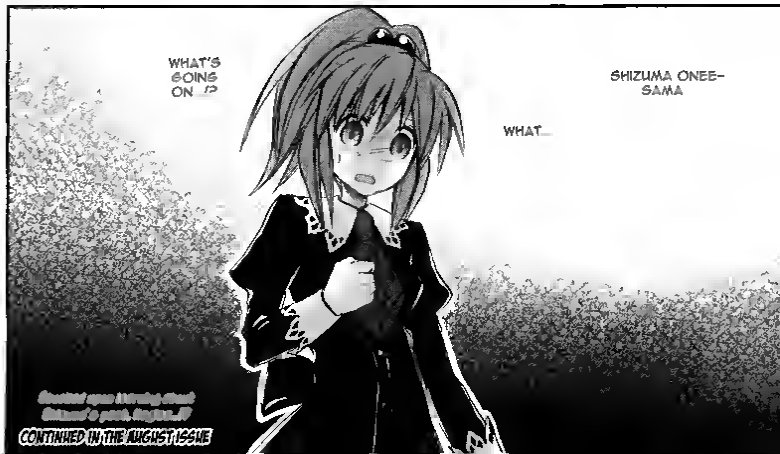

OH... YOU SEE...
THERE WAS NO SUITABLE PARTNER AVAILABLE FOR SHIZUMA-SAMA AT THE TIME... SO I, BEING A FRIEND OF HERS, ENDED UP ENTERING WITH HER...
IT WAS A DAUNTING TASK, ONE I WAS HARDLY WORTHY OF, BUT I HAD LITTLE CHOICE IN THE MATTER...

...
AOI NAGISA-SAN.
SO YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT,
Hanazono Shizuma-san's words at the coronation wrung bitter tears from each and every Miator student.

"...my dear, precious little sister Sakuragi Kaori who recently passed away."
"I'd like to dedicate our selection as the Etoile Couple to the person who should have been standing here with me as my Cadette..."

"I offer you all of my love."
"Kaori-"

YOU SHALL THEN LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT SHIZUMA-SAMA


WHAT'S GOING ON!?
SHIZUMA ONEE-SAMA
WHAT...
CONTINUED IN THE AUGUST ISSUE

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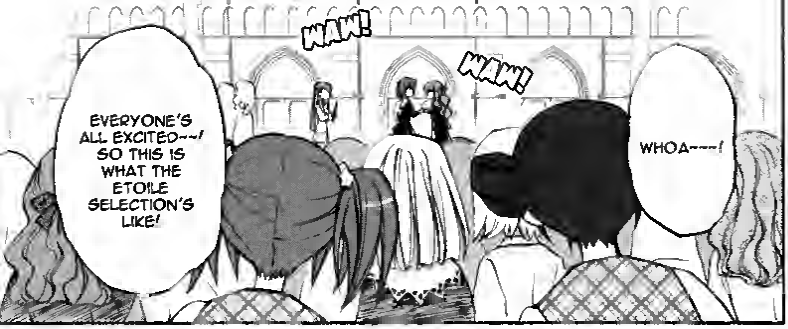
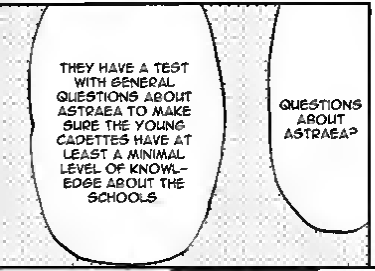
ストロベリー・パニック!
Strawberry Panic!
GIRLS' SCHOOL IN FULLBLOOM
CHAPTER 10: AN ETERNAL VOW
ORIGINAL WORK: KIMINO SAKURAKO
MANGA ADAPTATION: TAKUMI NAMUCHI

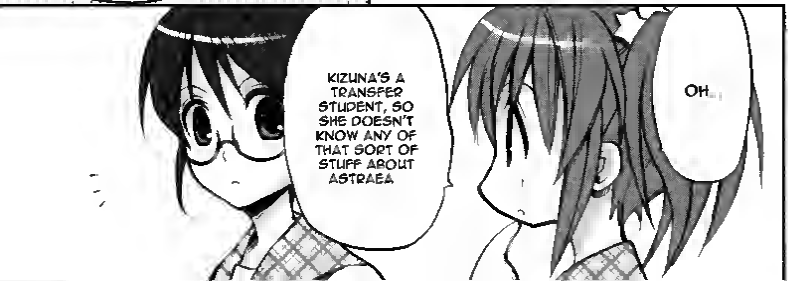
WOULD THE NEXT COUPLE PLEASE COME FORWARD?
A QUESTION FOR THE AINEE CANDIDATE.
CAN YOU VOW TO PROTECT THE CADETTE CANDIDATE STANDING BESIDE YOU, TO COME TO HER AID AT ANY TIME SHE MAY NEED YOU?
YES.
I SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I WILL PROTECT HER.
kiss
CLAP
CLAP
Protect me too--!!!
CLAP
Awesome--!


KYAW!
KYAW!
EVERYONE'S ALL EXCITED~~! SO THIS IS WHAT THE ETOILE SELECTION'S LIKE!
WHOA~~~!

OH, WAIT A MINUTE THE FIRST HALF OF THE CADETTE SELECTION IS ALWAYS "QUESTIONS ABOUT ASTRAEA," SO WHY...?

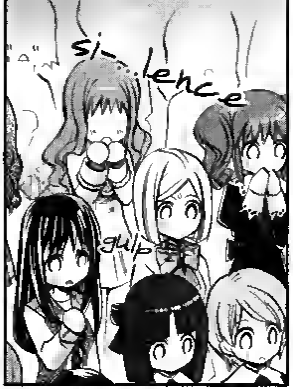
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?
THE COUPLES ARE ANSWERING QUESTIONS AND BEING JUDGED BY THEIR POPULARITY WITH THE AUDIENCE
THE GIRLS IN THE AUDIENCE ARE THROWING FLOWERS INTO BASKETS

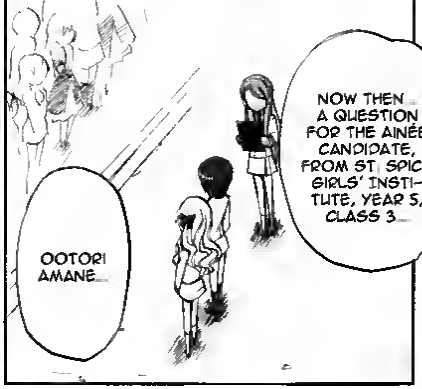

QUESTIONS ABOUT ASTRAEA?
THEY HAVE A TEST WITH GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ASTRAEA TO MAKE SURE THE YOUNG CADETTES HAVE AT LEAST A MINIMAL LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE SCHOOLS


OH...
KIZUNA'S A TRANSFER STUDENT, SO SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANY OF THAT SORT OF STUFF ABOUT ASTRAEA

GASP
I THINK... THE PRINCE OF SPICA'S PARTNER IS A TRANSFER STUDENT TOO...
THE COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF PLANNING THIS YEAR'S ETOILE SELECTION WAS MAINLY STUDENTS FROM SPICA...
COULD IT BE...
THAT THEY CHANGED IT BECAUSE SPICA WOULD HAVE BEEN AT A DISADVANTAGE IN THE "QUESTIONS ABOUT ASTRAEA" COMPETITION...?
STARTLE
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
SPICA DOESN'T NEED TO RESORT TO THOSE SORTS OF UNDERHANDED TRICKS TO WIN THIS YEAR'S ETOILE SELECTION!
WE'LL GET ALL THREE CROWNS! ♡

THE ETOILE SELECTION IS COMPRISED OF THREE SMALLER COMPETITIONS
OH, YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE ETOILE SELECTION, DO YOU?
I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.
THREE CROWNS? THERE ARE THREE ETOILES?
SO WINNING THE FIRST TWO COMPETITIONS IN ADDITION TO THE ETOILE SELECTION AS A WHOLE
IS AN INCREDIBLY PRESTIGIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENT.
1
2
3
BUT THE COUPLES WHO WIN EACH OF THE SMALLER COMPETITIONS ARE AWARDED SMALLER CROWNS TOO.
THE HIGHER-SCORING PAIRS FROM THE FIRST TWO COMPETITIONS GO ON TO THE THIRD COMPETITION, AND THE PAIR THAT WINS THE THIRD COMPETITION BECOMES THE ETOILE COUPLE.
OH, LOOK!! IT'S ALMOST AMANE-SAMA'S TURN!
IT'S NOT EASY, OF COURSE, BUT I THINK IT'S A REAL POSSIBILITY FOR SPICA THIS YEAR.


si...lence
gulp


NOW THEN... A QUESTION FOR THE AINÉE CANDIDATE, FROM ST. SPICA GIRLS' INSTITUTE, YEAR 5, CLASS 3...
OOTORI AMANE...

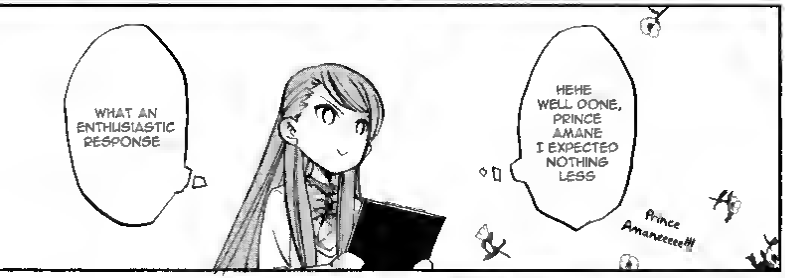
CAN YOU VOW TO PROTECT THE CADETTE CANDIDATE STANDING BESIDE YOU...
TO COME TO HER AID AT ANY TIME SHE MAY NEED YOU?

YES.
I SWEAR.

HIKARI IS ALSO NERVOUS
OH...
HEH
THEN PLEASE DEMON-STRATE YOUR VOW TO US.
PULL
OH!
Slide

A... Amane-sama!
I SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I WILL PROTECT HER IN THIS MANNER.

sfx: Oooooooh!



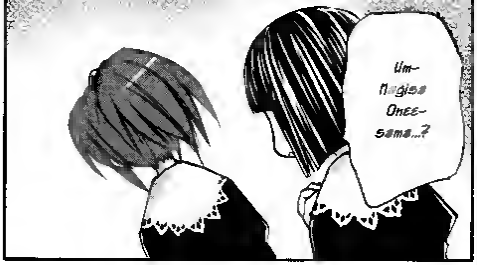
sfx: Oooooooh!

WE'LL MOVE ON TO THE SECOND QUESTION
わぁぁ
EVERYONE, I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS, BUT PLEASE TRY TO BE A BIT QUIETER IN EXPRESSING THEM!
QUIET, PLEASE!!

ALSO FOR THE AINEE CANDIDATE, OOTORI AMANE
CAN YOU VOW TO LOVE THE CADETTE CANDIDATE STANDING BESIDE YOU UNCONDITIONALLY..
. FOR AS LONG AS YOU BOTH SHALL LIVE?

That's enough-!!
Nooo!
shriek
AHHHHHHHH!
わあーあーあ

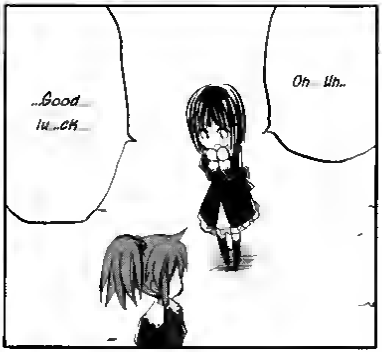
AHHH!
Amane-samaaaaa!
Oh, Nagisa Onee-sama!!
Thank goodness!! We've been looking for you!
Where have you been?
Yes! You just barely made it here in time! Shizuma Onee-sama is already getting ready.
Hurry, Nagisa Onee-sama!!
OKAY...
...AM I STILL IN TIME...?

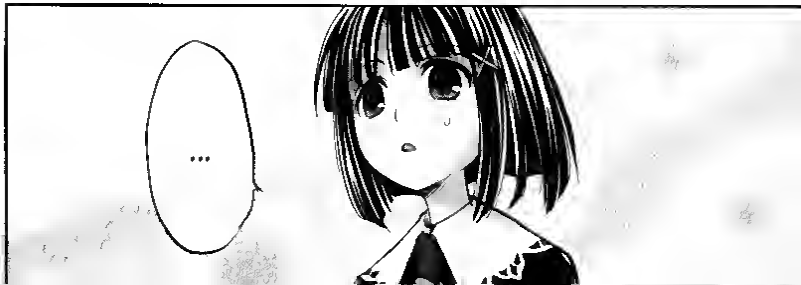

Um-
Nagisa
Onee-
sama...?

?

...WHAT?

YEAH..

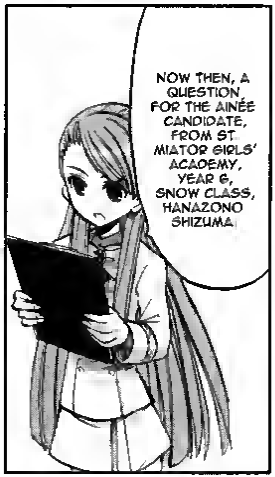

...Good
lu...ck
Oh Uh..


...

PULL
OVER HERE, NAGISA.
WERE YOU SO NERVOUS THAT YOU SUDDENLY HAD TO RUN TO THE BATHROOM?
I'M GLAD YOU MADE IT IN TIME... I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW?
...Oh...
U... yes...
Shizuma Onee-sama!
COME ON, IT'S OUR TURN
POKE
POKE
HEHE... DON'T BE SO STIFF RELAX.

JUST COME WITH ME...
DON'T WORRY. YOU DON'T NEED TO DO ANYTHING, NAGISA

TO COME TO HER AID AT ANY TIME SHE MAY NEED YOU?
CAN YOU VOW TO PROTECT THE CADETTE CANDIDATE STANDING BESIDE YOU...

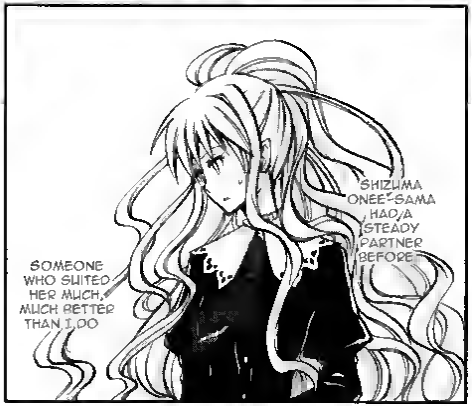

NOW THEN, A QUESTION FOR THE AINÉE CANDIDATE, FROM ST MIATOR GIRLS' ACADEMY, YEAR 6, SNOW CLASS, HANAZONO SHIZUMA.

THEN PLEASE DEMON-STRATE YOUR VOW TO US
I SWEAR
I SOLEMNLY SWEAR... THAT I WILL PROTECT HER
WHOOSH

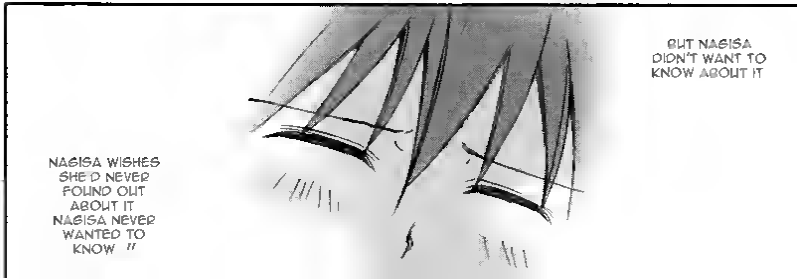
SFX: Oooooooh!
ALL THAT CHEERING... SHIZUMA-SAMA REALLY IS AMAZING...
WE'LL MOVE ON TO THE SECOND QUESTION NOW...
わあ
SHIZUMA-SAMAAAA!!
AHHH!!
あ
YOU'RE SO AWE-SOOOME!
IS IT REALLY ALL RIGHT TO ASK HER THIS ?
...
AH... SHIZUMA-SAMA, PLEASE FORGIVE THIS SINNER...
...THIS QUESTION IS ALSO FOR THE AINÉE CANDIDATE, HANAZONO SHIZUMA...
No, I mustn't waver I have to harden my heart!
I'm doing all of this so Spica can win !!
CLENCH

DO YOU WISH TO HAVE THE CADETTE CANDIDATE STANDING BESIDE YOU... AS YOUR SOLE PARTNER...
...IN THIS LIFE AS WELL AS THE AFTER-LIFE?
!!
STARTLE
murmur...
THE AFTER-LIFE...
YOUR SOLE PARTNER...

WHO RECENTLY PASSED AWAY
I OFFER YOU ALL OF MY LOVE
MY DEAR PRECIOUS LITTLE SISTER SAKURAGI KAORI


SHIZUMA ONEE-SAMA HAD A STEADY PARTNER BEFORE
SOMEONE WHO SUITED HER MUCH, MUCH BETTER THAN I DO

OH THAT'S RIGHT...
NAGISA MIGHT BE DENSE... BUT SHE DOES UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH


BUT NAGISA DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT
NAGISA WISHES SHE'D NEVER FOUND OUT ABOUT IT NAGISA NEVER WANTED TO KNOW "

slide
SOLEMNLY SWEAR
...I...
TO TAKE THE GIRL STANDING BESIDE ME, AOI NAGISA...
AS MY ONE AND ONLY PARTNER FOR ALL ETERNITY!

OOOOOOOOOH!!
Oh, noooo!
Shizuma-samaaa!!!
Noooo!
Noooo!
Sigh

I'LL LET YOU OFF THE HOOK FOR BEING LATE
stroke stroke
YOU DID VERY WELL TODAY, NAGISA.
SMILE
TOMORROW'S AINEE SELECTION IS THE REAL THING LET'S DO OUR BEST!
..Shizuma Onee-sama..
didn't.. tell Nagisa about anything...
TAP TAP

NAGISA ONEE-SAMA, YOU... WERE MAGNIFICENT TODAY...
gaze adoringly
CHIYO-CHAN...
...
HEY.. CHIYO-CHAN, DO YOU... HAVE A MINUTE?
HUH?
I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING...
...ABOUT SHIZUMA ONEE-SAMA...

...IT HAPPENED BEFORE I CAME TO MIATOP, SO I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT...

I THINK TAMAO ONEE-SAMA WOULD KNOW MORE ABOUT IT THAN I DO.
OH...
SO EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT IT...
AND TAMAO-CHAN NEVER TOLD NAGISA BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T WANT TO HURT HER FEELINGS

AHAHA... EVERYONE MUST'VE BEEN LAUGHING AT NAGISA BEHIND HER BACK THIS WHOLE TIME
Nagisa Onee-sama, that's not...!!
NO... SOME PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ANGRY ABOUT IT TOO.

Now that Nagisa knows about Shizuma's past. She doesn't believe Shizuma's vow could really be true!

CONTINUED IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE

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CHAPTER 11: CAPTIVES IN A TOWER
ORIGINAL WORK: KIMINO SAKURAKO
MANGA ADAPTATION: TAKUMI NAMUCHI

chirp chirp
WOW, LOOK AT ALL THE PEOPLE! BUT IT'S SO EARLY! IT'S NOT EVEN TIME FOR CLASS YET
CHATTER CHATTER
THE RACE?
IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO THE RACE
THAT'S RIGHT
THE SECOND HALF OF THE FIRST COMPETITION, THE AINEE PORTION, IS A HORSEBACK RACE

FIRST, THEY DO A CIRCUIT OF THE MAIDENS' GARDEN.
THEN, THEY RETURN TO THIS TRACK AND RESCUE A "PRINCESS" - THEIR CADETTE - FROM THAT TOWER...
...AND THEN DO A CIRCUIT OF THE TRACK AND CROSS THE FINISH LINE.
WHOAAA A HORSE-BACK RACE, HUH?
SO THAT'S WHY THERE ARE SO MANY HORSES...!
THE TWO LEADERS OF THE PACK REALLY STAND OUT.
THE WHITE AND BLACK HORSES OVER THERE ARE REALLY AMAZING!

THAT WHITE HORSE IS STAR-BRIGHT
WHEN SHE'S RIDING STAR-BRIGHT, AMANE-CHAN REALLY LOOKS THE PART OF THE PRINCE ON THE WHITE HORSE.
AND THAT JET-BLACK HORSE IS LE CLAIR NOIR, SHIZUMA-SAMA'S HORSE
EVEN THE COLOR OF HER JACKET IS THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF AMANE-CHAN'S.

I BET THE RACE WILL TURN OUT TO BE MORE LIKE A ONE-ON-ONE COMPETITION BETWEEN THOSE TWO
EHEHE! I CAN'T WAIT! ♡

AMANE-SAMA IS THE ACE OF THE SPICA EQUESTRIAN CLUB. I DOUBT ANYONE ELSE IS A MATCH FOR HER!
...AHH... AMANE-SAMA REALLY STANDS OUT ON HER WHITE HORSE.
I WONDER AT YOUR CONFIDENCE, CONSIDERING SHIZUMA-SAMA IS ONE OF HER OPPONENTS...
OH, YOU THINK SO?
EHEHEHE!
HEHE... HEHEHE...
TWITCH
TWITCH
YOU... DON'T KNOW HOW ASTOUNDING SHIZUMA-SAMA IS WHEN SHE'S SERIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING, DO YOU!?
...BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE SHE COULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO BE A REAL THREAT...

WHOOSH
WOOOOOO
SQUEal
AH... I WANT TO ROOT FOR MIATOR, BUT THAT MEANS CHEERING FOR SHIZUMA ONEE-SAMA IT'S A COMPLICATED FEELING...
GOOD LUCK, AMANE-SAMAAA!!
OOOOH
OH! IT STARTED
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER
SHE SEEMED KIND OF DOWN SINCE YESTER-DAY
I HOPE SHE'S NOT SCARED
ANYWAY, I WONDER IF NAGISA-CHAN'S ALL RIGHT SHE'S SO HIGH UP

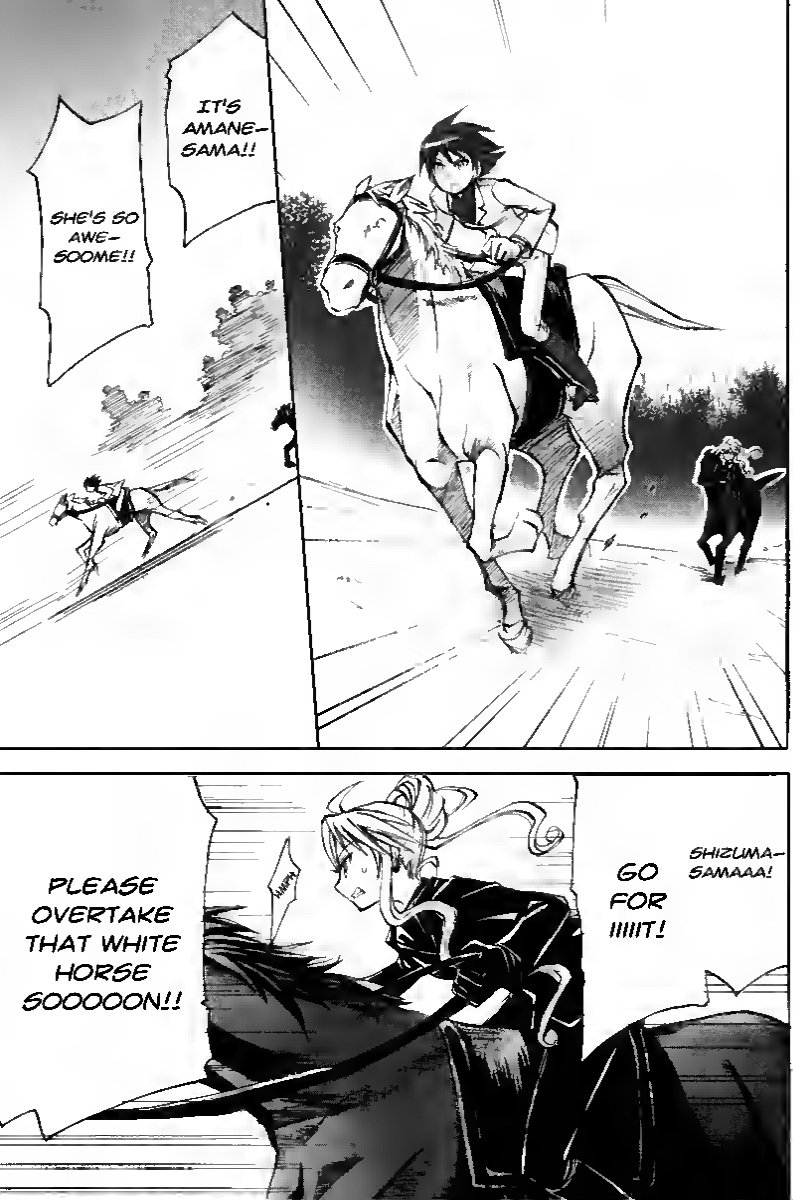
PHOOOOOO~~~
ARGH~! IT'S SO CRAMPED IN HEEERE!
NO, THERE'S NO MORE ROOOOM!
CAN'T YOU... SQUISH IN A LITTLE MORE OVER THERE?
SQUISH
SQUISH
YEAH... IT'S SUCH A PAIN!
WE ALL WORKED HARD TO PREPARE FOR THE COMPETI-TION
THAT CHANGE WAS A LITTLE TOO BIASED
THEY EVEN FORCED THEM TO CHANGE THE CADETTE SELECTION
THE FACT THAT THEY'RE TRANSFER STUDENTS MAKES THEM STAND OUT TOO~~!
WHISPER WHISPER
IT'S BECAUSE TWO CADETTES JOINED AT THE LAST MINUTE.

There really are... people who are justifiably angry with her...
Oh... They're talking about Nagisa, aren't they?
Shizuma Onee-sama isn't really serious about Nagisa anyway...
but it's not like she has any chance of winning...
Tameo-chan and the others worked so hard to make Nagisa this nice dress
Nagisa doesn't... care about anything anymore
Nagisa hopes... Nagisa hopes that this part of the competition will be over soon

AND AMANE-SAMA AND HER PARTNER WILL DEFINITELY MAKE IT TO THE FINALS, NO MATTER HOW BADLY THE CADETTE SCREWS UP.
AMANE-SAMA'S PARTNER WAS SUPPOSED TO BE KANAME-SAMA...
YEAH~~~! A LOT OF PEOPLE WANTED TO SEE THEM PAIRED TOGETHER.
trouble
trouble
Oh... So this girl from Spica... is getting a lot of criticism too
Poor thing..

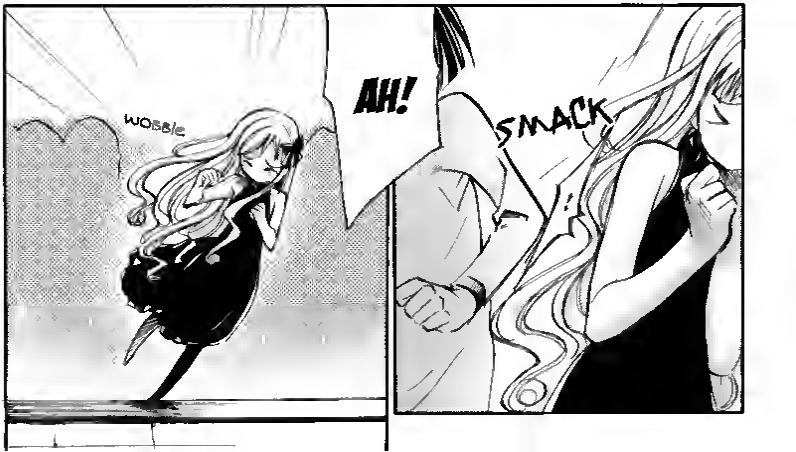
Nagisa is with Shizuma Onee-sama who's already been an Etoile before. But people might be even more jealous of this girl
Even Nagisa has heard of the Prince of Spica
This girl doesn't look like she has Nagisa's strength
She probably cries a lot when people say mean things to her...

touch
OOOOH!
SHRIEK
They're back!!
Who's in the lead!?
!!
DON'T LET THEM GET TO YOU...!
YOU ALL RIGHT?


IT'S AMANE-SAMA!!
SHE'S SO AWE-SOOME!!
SHIZUMA-SAMAAA!
GO FOR IIIIT!
JUMPU
PLEASE OVERTAKE THAT WHITE HORSE SOOOOON!!

WHERE'S MY ONEE-SAMA!?
ONEE-SAMA!
THEY'RE HERE!
sfx chatter

HEY! DON'T PUSH!
Ack!
I... I CAN'T SEE! GET OUTTA MY WAY!!
sfx squiiiish


wobble
AH!
SMACK

!!
W... watch out...!
GRAB
Oh,
SLIP

flagloe fell from the tower while protecting Keri. What will become of her!?

CONTINUED IN THE NOVEMBER ISSUE

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CHAPTER 12: PETITE COURONNE (LITTLE CROWN)
ORIGINAL WORK: KIMINO SAKURAKO
MANGA ADAPTATION: TAKUMI NANAUCHI

!!
GRAB
AHHHH!
She's gonna fall!
HELP !!
Urk
SOME-ONE HELP HER!!

AHHHHHHH!
IT CAN'T BE!! NAGISA-CHAN!?
OHH! LOOK, THAT GIRL'S ABOUT TO FALL OUT OF THE TOWER!!
A... Aha...
N... Nagisa's... all... right...
WHY...!?
NOOO!
H... HELP...!!
Ohh! What should we do...!?
I'm sorry! It's all my fault...!!
I'm sorry.

...It's... okay.
Nagisa won't mind falling...
SMILE
HIKARI!!
HIKARI, OVER HERE!!
COME HERE!!

WHAM!
HIKARI!
A... AMANE-SAMA!
PLEASE... PLEASE HELP HER!
PLEASE HELP THAT GIRL FROM MIATOR...!!
SHE SAVED ME, AND NOW SHE'S GOING TO FALL!!
WHAT!?

YANK
!!
MY GOD!!
...Guh...
slip
slip
TAp
TAp
TAp

Can't... hold on...
PANT
PANT
If she had never met Shizuma Onee-sama...
she would never have had to go through all this pain after all
Things would be better if I was just dropped out of the picture
COME ON!
HEY, YOU! TAKE MY HAND!!
slip

!!
AMANE! REMOVE YOURSELF FROM MY PATH!!
NAGISA! OVER HERE!!

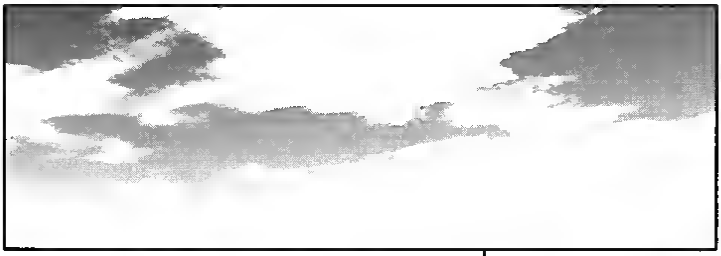
NAGISA
!!
SHIZUMA
ONEE-
SAMA!!

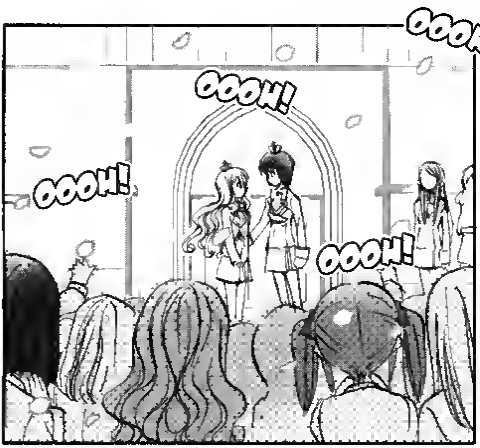
CATCH

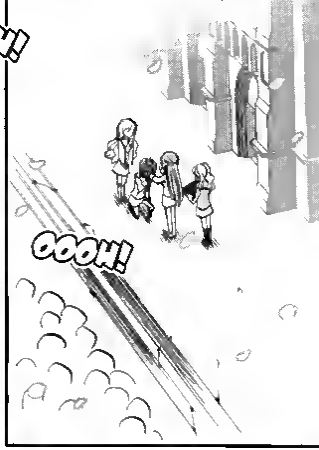
YAAAAAAY!
HUUUG
DRIP
.YOU FOOLISH GIRL .!
YOU REALLY ARE FOOLISH MY SWEET ANGEL..

Onee..
sama..
GRK!
GLARE
MANE! I'M SORRY, BUT I'M GOING ON AHEAD!!

CRAAACK!
LET'S GO, HIKARI!! HOLD ON TIGHT!!
WHOOSH
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
OOOOOOH~

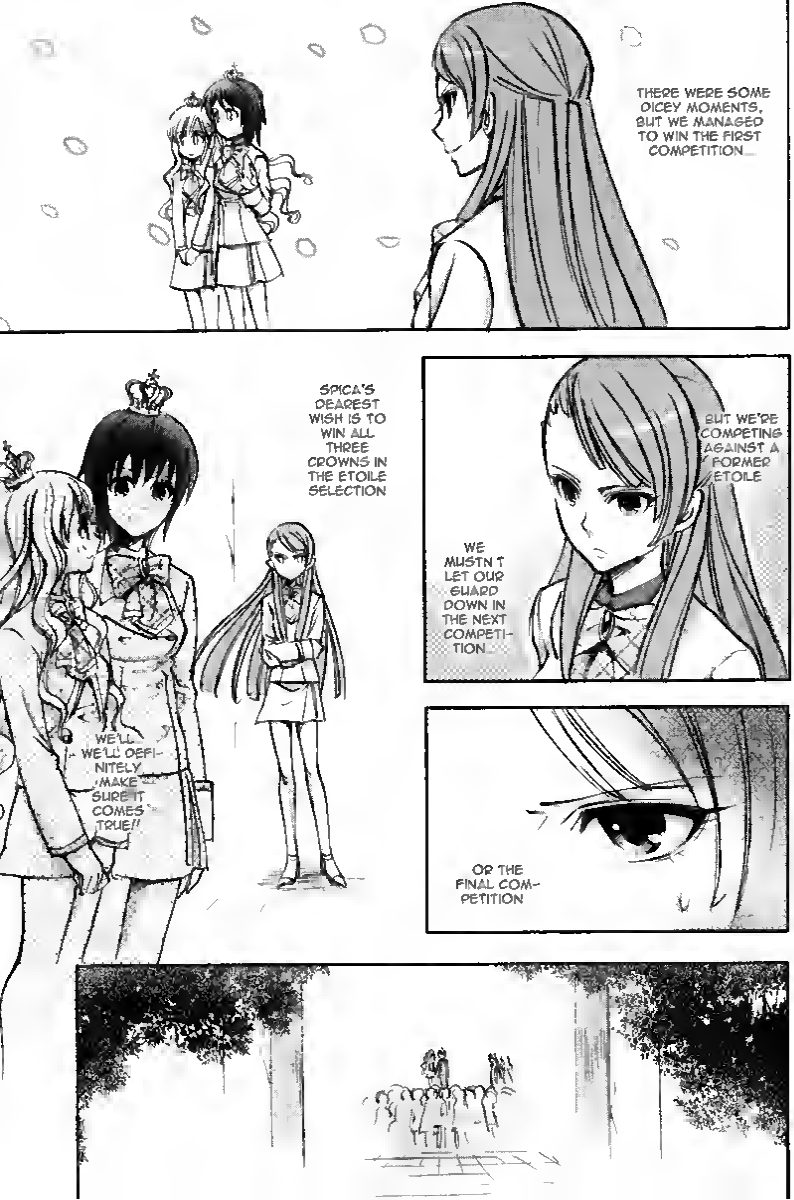



OOOH!!
OOOH!!
OOOH!!
OOOH!!


OOOH!!

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP


THERE WERE SOME DICEY MOMENTS, BUT WE MANAGED TO WIN THE FIRST COMPETITION...
SPICA'S DEAREST WISH IS TO WIN ALL THREE CROWNS IN THE ETOILE SELECTION
BUT WE'RE COMPETING AGAINST A FORMER ETOILE
WE MUSTN'T LET OUR GUARD DOWN IN THE NEXT COMPETITION...
WE'LL... WE'LL DEFINITELY MAKE SURE IT COMES TRUE!!
OR THE FINAL COMPETITION

IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY FOR YOU
THANK YOU...
YOU HELPED ME HAVE FUN AGAIN...
...I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH YOU KNOW, OR WHAT PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE SAID TO YOU
!
NAGISA DIDN'T DO ANYTHING
OH, NO...
!...

BUT... THERE IS ONE THING I NEED TO TELL YOU
THERE ARE SO MANY MEMORIES INSIDE ME. BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES... OF TIMES I WAS SO HAPPY THAT THEY FELT LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN WONDERFUL DREAMS
AND PAINFUL MEMORIES... SAD MEMORIES... THE BAD AS WELL AS THE GOOD
THERE ARE SOME AMONG THEM... THAT ARE SO PAINFUL, I NEVER WANT TO REMEMBER THEM AGAIN...
Painful memories
That's right... Shizuma Onee-sama lost someone... who was very, very dear to her...
THROB

I've never stopped to consider all the pain Shizuma Onee-sama must have been going through...

BUT... NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL THE MEMORIES ARE I DON'T WANT THEM TO JUST DISAPPEAR,
BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT THE LIFE I'VE LIVED
HAS MADE ME, HANAZONO SHIZUMA, THE PERSON I AM TODAY.
touch
I DON'T WANT TO COMPARE ANYONE TO ANYONE ELSE IN THAT SAME VEIN. I DON'T WANT TO COMPARE MYSELF TO THE PERSON I WAS IN THE PAST
HOWEVER, THERE IS ONE THING I WISH TO TELL YOU
THE ONE I LOVE RIGHT NOW... WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL, THE ONE I'D RISK EVERYTHING FOR...
...IS YOU, NAGISA. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE.

Shizume Onee-sama.

BADUMP
Oh
sigh
BADUMP

stroke
Mm
TWITCH
MY DEAR, SWEET NAGISA.

..IT'S..
..ALL RIGHT, ISN'T IT? NAGISA..
There isn't much Nagisa can do...
..but if Shizuma Onee-sama ..wants her..
..and if she can make Shizuma Onee-sama even the slightest bit happier..
Then.. she'll do this with Shizuma Onee-sama right now
HUG
Nagisa wants.. to stay like this..

In the bits of sunlight streaming through the leaves their shadows blend together.

CONTINUED IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE

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READ THIS OR YOU MIGHT DIE!!!

SP has been licensed and so our current translator decided to not continue working on it. And that if SP is to continue we need a new translator who will work under the license.

If someone interested, post your message in the forum. We will try to response immediately.